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CENTRAL FAX CENTER60,469-254
OT-5282

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A roller guide device for use in an elevator system, comprising:
a base;
at least one roller supported by the base such that the roller is rotatable about a roller axis and moveable relative to the base in at least one direction perpendicular to the roller axis;
a damper that has a selectively variable stiffness and dampens ~~is configured to dampen~~ the relative movement of the roller, the damper comprising a fluid having a selectively variable viscosity for varying the stiffness of the damper; and
a controller that ~~is configured to automatically increase~~ increases the stiffness of the damper when an associated elevator car is stationary at a landing and ~~to decrease~~ decreases the stiffness of the damper when the associated elevator car is moving.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, including an elevator car motion indicator in communication with the controller and wherein the controller changes ~~is configured to change~~ the damper stiffness responsive to a detected level of motion.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the damper fluid comprises a magneto-rheological fluid.
6. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 5, including a field generator that generates ~~is configured to generate~~ a field that changes a viscosity of the magneto-rheological fluid.

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7. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 6, wherein the controller controls is ~~configured to control~~ the field generator.
8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 7, including an indicator that provides is ~~configured to provide~~ an indication of elevator car vibration to the controller and wherein the controller controls is ~~configured to control~~ the damper stiffness based upon an amount of vibration.
9. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, including a plurality of rollers and a variable stiffness damper associated with each of the rollers and wherein the controller is ~~configured to individually control~~ controls the stiffness of each of the dampers.
10. (Currently Amended) An elevator system, comprising:
a car frame;
at least one roller supported for vertical movement with the frame, rotatable movement relative to the frame and lateral movement relative to the frame;
a selectively variable stiffness damper that is ~~configured to dampen~~ dampens the lateral movement of the roller relative to the frame, the damper comprising a fluid having a selectively variable viscosity for varying the stiffness of the damper; and
a controller that is ~~configured to automatically increase~~ increases the stiffness of the damper when the car frame is stationary at a landing and ~~to decrease~~ decreases the stiffness of the damper when the car frame is moving.
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, including a vibration detector that is ~~configured to provide~~ provides an indication of a level of car frame vibration to the controller and wherein the controller is ~~configured to vary~~ varies the stiffness of the damper based upon the indication of the level of vibration level.

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13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the damper fluid comprises a magneto-rheological fluid.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of controlling lateral movement of an elevator car assembly having at least one roller for riding along a guide rail to facilitate vertical movement of the car assembly, comprising:

selectively and automatically varying an ability of the roller to move laterally relative to the car assembly;

decreasing the ability of the roller to move laterally relative to the car assembly when the car assembly is stationary at a landing by decreasing a viscosity of a fluid that controls the ability; and

increasing the ability of the roller to move laterally relative to the car assembly when the car assembly is moving along the guide rail by increasing a viscosity of the fluid.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the fluid comprises a magneto-rheological fluid and the method includes selectively applying a magnetic field to the fluid.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein there are a plurality of rollers and associated dampers that dampen lateral movement of the rollers and the method includes individually controlling the fluid viscosity of each of the dampers.